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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

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A-166

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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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SERIES A

FROM : AMERICAN EMBASSY, GUATEMALA.

DATE: October 2, 1964

SUBJECT: GUERRILLA ACTIVITY IN GUATEMALA -- SECOND MONTHLY REPORT

REF : Embassy's A-103 of September 2, 1964.

Since the submission of A-103 there has been no major change in the general activities of the guerrilla and terrorist groups, nor in our evaluation of their present threat to the stability of the Peralta Government. Under current circumstances, with various newly forming political groups working peacefully to attempt to form legal political parties and with no significant level of popular discontent evident, the presence and activities of the subversive groups in Guatemala continue to be an annoying problem rather than a serious threat to the Government or the general tranquility of the country. Perhaps the most significant and foreboding "hew" development during the month was the appearance of a plot to attempt to assassinate Chief of Government Peralta and other high-level GOG officials (Embtel 123).

Since reports of the possible plot came to the attention of the GOG, security measures surrounding Peralta seem to have been tightened.

Otherwise, subversive activity has continued to take the form of sporadic bombings in the capital (more noteworthy for the noise they make).

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC

REVIEWED BY *Cy* DATE OCT 1964

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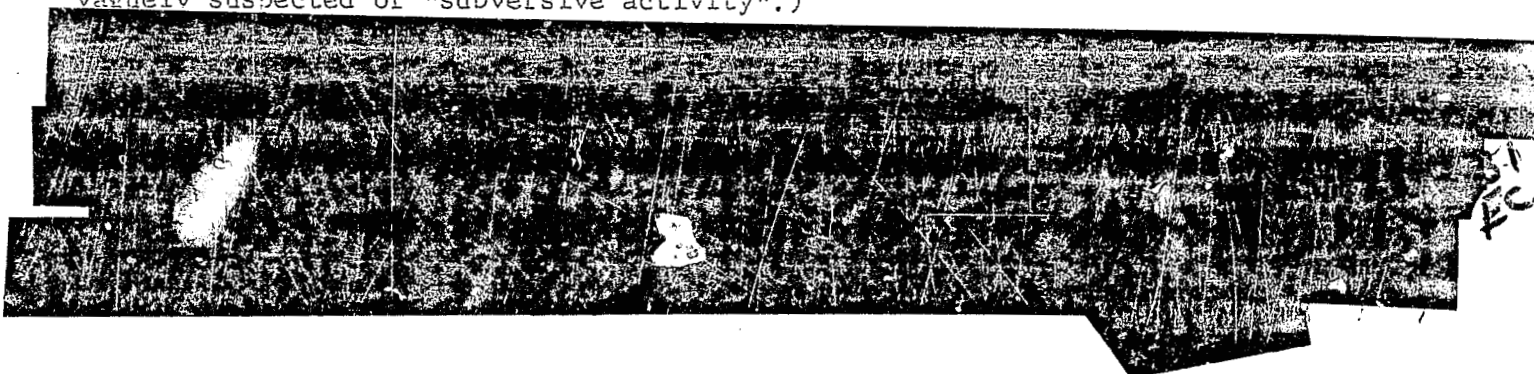
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than the damage they do), isolated incidents of attacks against finca owners (in an apparent attempt to sow unrest in rural areas and to attempt to gain the sympathy of the campesinos), and occasional raids on stores, busses, or taxies with robbery as the apparent motive. On the evening of September 4 a series of bombs was exploded in Guatemala City damaging several cars but causing no injuries (Embtel 193), and on September 26 a rather large homemade bomb exploded in an open field some 50 yards from the site at which a new housing development was being inaugurated.

There have been few reports during the past month of rural guerrilla activity. However, various concentrations of guerrillas have been reported in the Izabal area, and in a shift from the guerrillas' recent normal zones of activity, an unidentified group of about eight persons robbed three persons travelling to a finca in the Escuintla area, after wounding them with machine-gun fire -- an action that had all the earmarks of a guerrilla strike.

While it is difficult to obtain completely trustworthy facts and figures on GOG action against guerrilla bands, the GOG is apparently attempting to maintain its pressure against the subversive groups. An officer from the Puerto Barrios garrison informed the Army Attaché that since early July 27 guerrillas have been killed in the area and 130 captured. (ARMA's IR 0137-64). (The figures may be somewhat inflated, particularly the 130 captured, as the latter probably includes arrests of many delinquents merely vaguely suspected of "subversive activity".)



For the Ambassador.

John T. Dreyfuss
John T. Dreyfuss
First Secretary of Embassy

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